

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 18, 2015

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 14**

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**Introduced by ~~Senator Fuller~~ *Senators Fuller and Allen***

January 27, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14—Relative to arts education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 14, as amended, Fuller. Arts Education Month.

This measure would proclaim March 2015 to be Arts Education Month and would encourage all elected officials to participate with their educational communities in celebrating the arts.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Arts education, which includes dance, music,  
2 theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential and integral part of basic  
3 education for all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades  
4 1 to 12, inclusive; and

5 WHEREAS, The arts are crucial to achieving a state educational  
6 policy that is devoted to the teaching of basic academic skills and  
7 lifelong learning capacities with the goal of truly preparing all  
8 children for success after high school regardless of gender, age,  
9 economic status, physical ability, or learning ability; and

10 WHEREAS, A systematic, substantive, and sequential visual  
11 and performing arts curriculum addresses and develops ways of  
12 thinking, questioning, expression, and learning that complement  
13 learning in other core subjects, but that is unique in what it has to  
14 offer; and

15 WHEREAS, Pupils benefit from arts learning in the areas of  
16 cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative thinking,

1 cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and expression, social  
2 interaction and collaboration, and preparation for the workplace  
3 and lifelong learning; and

4 WHEREAS, Arts education in California is mandated for pupils  
5 in grades 1 to 12, inclusive, by Sections 51210 and 51220 of the  
6 Education Code, which provide, in part, “[t]he adopted course of  
7 study ... shall include instruction ... in ... [v]isual and performing  
8 arts, including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theatre,  
9 and visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation  
10 and the skills of creative expression”; and

11 WHEREAS, The arts are recognized as part of a quality  
12 education, and the University of California and the California State  
13 University have instituted a policy that includes visual and  
14 performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high school  
15 pupils wishing to enter California’s institutions of higher education;  
16 and

17 ~~WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature passed and former~~  
18 ~~Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law a landmark investment~~  
19 ~~in music and arts education programs, including a block grant of~~  
20 ~~\$105,000,000 to support standards-aligned instruction in~~  
21 ~~kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive; and~~

22 ~~WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature also passed and former~~  
23 ~~Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law an additional~~  
24 ~~\$500,000,000 to be distributed on a one-time basis for the purchase~~  
25 ~~of visual and performing arts and physical education professional~~  
26 ~~development supplies and equipment; and~~

27 ~~WHEREAS, In 2007, this ongoing investment in arts education~~  
28 ~~plus a cost of living increase was passed by the Legislature and~~  
29 ~~signed into law by former Governor Schwarzenegger; and~~

30 *WHEREAS, Throughout the last 10 years, arts education*  
31 *programs have enjoyed significant investments by the State of*  
32 *California and continue to see support by the Legislature; and*

33 WHEREAS, It is the intent that this funding help implement a  
34 comprehensive vision for arts education at the local level, to ensure  
35 that every pupil in California benefits from this investment; and

36 WHEREAS, This funding is the first step in investing in quality  
37 visual and performing arts programs for all California pupils; and

38 WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education  
39 associations hold celebrations in the month of March, giving  
40 California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of

1 the arts for all pupils, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to  
2 give recognition to the state's outstanding young artists, and to  
3 enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum;  
4 now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
7 proclaims the month of March 2015 as Arts Education Month and  
8 encourages all elected officials to participate with their educational  
9 communities in celebrating the arts with meaningful activities and  
10 programs for pupils, teachers, and the public that demonstrate  
11 learning and understanding in the visual and performing arts, and  
12 urges all residents to become interested in and give full support to  
13 quality school arts programs for children and youth; and be it  
14 further

15 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
16 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.